

Appl. No. : 09/927,894
Filed : August 10, 2001

REMARKS

The communication is responsive to the Office Action mailed on March 17, 2005. Initially, Applicants' representative would like to thank Examiners Nano and Najjar for the courtesy they extended during the telephone interview.

I. Summary of Amendments

By this paper, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 6, 21 and 28 as discussed during the interview. In addition, Applicants have amended Claims 6, 21, 27 and 43 to correct minor errors discovered in these claims, and have amended Claims 19 and 20 to replace "sockets" with "socket connections." Applicants submit that none of the amendments made herein are narrowing amendments.

Applicants have also added seven new dependent claims to the application.

II. Affirmation of Election

Applicants affirm the election of Claims 1-45 without traverse.

III. Anticipation Rejection of Independent Claims 1, 34 and 38

Applicants respectfully submit that the anticipation rejection of independent Claims 1, 34 and 38 over Lerman et al. is improper because, as discussed during the interview, Lerman et al. does not disclose all of the limitations set forth in each of these claims. For example, with respect to Claim 1, Lerman et al. does not disclose a system in which "the host computer and the storage server perform input/output (I/O) operations over the at least one network using multiple, concurrent logical connections, each logical connection being between the host computer and the storage server over the at least one computer network, such that a first I/O operation is executed over a first logical connection while a second I/O operation is executed over a second logical connection," in the context of the other limitations of Claim 1.

With respect to independent Claim 34, Lerman et al. does not disclose a method that comprises "on the host computer, dividing the I/O request into multiple constituent I/O operations," and "performing the multiple constituent I/O operations in parallel over multiple, respective logical network connections between the host computer and a target storage server such that I/O data is transferred between the host computer and the storage server over each of the logical network connections," in the context of the other limitations of Claim 34.

Appl. No. : **09/927,894**
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With respect to independent Claim 38, Lerman et al. does not disclose “a software system which provides functionality for subdividing storage space of the array of disk drives into multiple storage partitions, and provides functionality for uniquely allocating the partitions to host computers on the network such that the storage server may be shared by multiple host computers, and such that when a partition is allocated to a host computer, the partition appears to user-level processes of the host computer as a local disk drive,” in the context of the other limitations of Claim 38.

IV. Obviousness Rejection of Independent Claims 19 and 28

Applicants submit that the obviousness rejection of independent Claims 19 and 28 over Lerman et al. and Bruno et al. is improper because, among other reasons, these references do not teach or suggest all of the limitations of these claims. For example, with respect to Claim 19, Lerman et al. and Bruno et al. do not teach or suggest a system in which “each host computer is programmed to open multiple concurrent socket connections over the network to the storage servers for performing concurrent input/output operations,” in the context of the other limitations of the claim.

With respect to independent Claim 28, Lerman et al. and Bruno et al. do not teach or suggest a method that comprises “performing a first input/output operation over the first TCP/IP connection concurrently with performing a second input/output operation over the second TCP/IP connection, each of said input/output operations comprising a transfer of input/output data between the host computer and the storage server,” and “maintaining the first and second TCP/IP connections is a persistent state such that each TCP/IP connection may be used to perform additional input/output operations.”

V. Dependent Claims

Applicants submit that the dependent claims are patentable over the applied references in view of their dependencies from allowable independent claims. Applicants further submit that the limitations recited in the dependent claims provide additional patentable distinctions over Lerman et al. and Bruno et al.

Appl. No. : 09/927,894
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VI. Official Notice

In connection with Claims 3, 20 and 28, the Examiner took official notice that it "would have been obvious ... to use TCP/IP." To the extent the Examiner may be asserting that it would have been obvious to use TCP/IP to perform the functions required by Claims 3, 20 and 28, Applicants' respectfully object to the Examiner's use of official notice, and request that the Examiner supply Applicants with a reference supporting his assertion.

VII. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that Claims 1-45 (elected herein) are patentably distinct from the applied references, and request that the rejections of these claims be withdrawn.

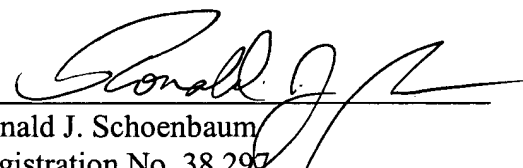
By focusing on specific claims and claim limitations in the discussion above, Applicants do not imply an agreement with the Examiner's assertions with respect to other claims and claim limitations. In addition, Applicants reserve the right to later disqualify Lerman et al. and Bruno et al. as prior art by showing an earlier invention date.

If any issues remain in the present application, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned representative at his direct dial number of 949.721.2950.

Respectfully submitted,

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